

Ref: ML/DP/NB

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Dear XX MP

As General Secretary of the UK's biggest trade union I wanted to bring your attention to an issue that is impacting your constituents who work for British Gas.

UNISON is the largest staff union in British Gas and has a long relationship with the employer going back many decades. We have many loyal employees and during the COVID 19 pandemic these workers were deemed critical workers who continued to support customers to ensure their energy supply was unaffected.

As a union we are therefore dismayed that British Gas has taken this moment to use a legal process (section 188 letters) to serve notice on its total workforce and the collective agreement with UNISON to get them to accept significantly reduced terms and conditions of employment. This notice was served at the beginning of the discussions with the business and was an unnecessary and provocative act which has made the negotiations more challenging and less likely to result in a positive outcome.

The attached briefing note explains in more detail what has happened and what actions you could take to support your constituents and our members who have been affected. I would ask that you follow these up to demonstrate your support to these loyal and hardworking employees who are being treated in such an appalling fashion. The law allowing the dismissal of a total workforce with a view to forcing them to accept reduced terms is an unacceptable practice in the best of times but doing so in the midst of the current pandemic is utterly disgraceful.

Thank you for your support in this matter and for taking time to read the briefing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Prentis'.

Dave Prentis
General Secretary